

The Campaign for Saint Jude

Building a church for our future

Brothers and Sisters,

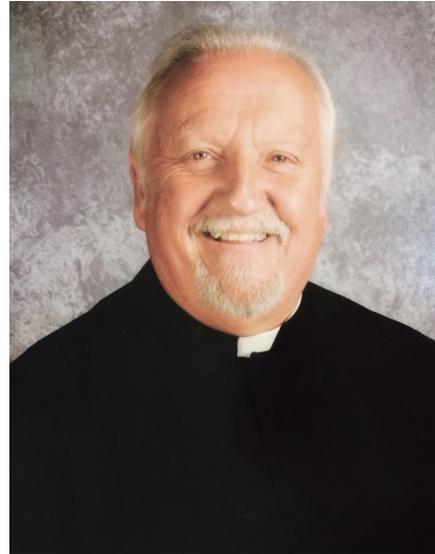
What blessings we share here
at the Church of St. Jude!

For more than 60 years, St. Jude has faithfully served the people of Joliet from our corner on McDonough Street, growing both in numbers and grace. The first church welcomed only a quarter of the families we do today, and our school's humble beginnings included fewer than 100 students. When I reflect on the changes our parish has seen over these years, I am thankful for God's blessings, proud of our history, and conscious of our responsibility to address the needs that inevitably come with growth.

Our current church building may not be old, but it was designed as a temporary structure. There are significant structural issues, and many of our parishioners do not feel at home in the modern style. Renovating the existing structure would cost just as much as a new building.

The time is now to create a space for worship that is as strong and welcoming as our parish community.

St. Jude is now embarking on an ambitious capital campaign to raise the funds we need to construct a permanent, long-term home. As we begin this journey together, I ask that you pray for our success and for God's guidance as you consider a sacrificial gift. I have no doubt that our devoted community can meet this challenge together.



As your pastor, I am fortunate to see daily reminders of the warm hearts and generous spirits that make up our parish. From the smiles of our school children to the helping hands of volunteers to the many families and friends coming together to celebrate the Mass, our community is truly living its mission to share God's love, joy, and peace. Let us now commit ourselves to building that generous spirit into the foundation of our new sanctuary.

I thank you for your prayerful, generous, and faithful response.

In the Service of Christ,

Rev. Michael R. Lane

Our History

Throughout our history, St. Jude has been a faith community blessed with hard-working, generous parishioners.



The Church of St. Jude Parish family celebrates God's presence by striving to live the Word and by sharing God's Love, Joy, and Peace. We work to build unity through Worship, Prayer, Education, Service, Fellowship, and by ministering to the needs of each other and the community at large.

The Church of Saint Jude was established on August 15, 1954 – the Feast of the Assumption of Mary. Our first church building was the result of a single parishioner, who generously gifted the land and defrayed most of the construction costs. This structure now serves as the two north classrooms in the school, a daily reminder of our history and the personal sacrifice that founded our parish.

Within a few short years, St. Jude was ministering to 250 families and had built a larger, more permanent church to serve the growing community. Our campus continued to expand over the next decade with additional school classrooms, a convent, and the current rectory.

Today 1,000 families are part of the St. Jude parish family and more than 200 children attend our preschool to 8th grade school. The school gymnasium and the Perpetual Adoration Chapel of St. Joseph are the most recent facility additions.

Our Need

The current church building, dedicated in 1993, was built with only the funds we had on hand to meet a pressing need for space. As we lacked the resources for a space to last for generations, just two decades of use has taken its toll. There are structural issues and leaks, and St. Jude must constantly devote funds to repairs.



In addition to structural issues, the design of the Church does not meet our parish needs. With no running water in the sacristy, Mass preparation is time consuming and inefficient. Visitors often remark on the slanted floor and unusual shape of the sanctuary. This is not a novel observation, as many long-standing parishioners have found the modern style difficult to accept as well.

We have looked into every option, including renovations to the existing structure, and have determined the most cost-effective solution is to build a new church. Our estimates show it will be just as expensive to renovate the current building as it would be to build a new structure.

Building a new church will bring an even greater sense of community and unity to our parish and will provide our parish family with accessible and usable space.

This will be a major investment in the future of our parish. The decision to embark on this journey was made after prayerfully considering our options and receiving input from a large number of parishioners through interviews and town halls.

We are the servants of the God of heaven and earth,
and are rebuilding the house that was built here long years ago.

Ezra 5:11

Our Plan

St. Jude is working with architects on early project designs and cost estimates. This new construction will include:

- **A New Church Facility**, sited on the northeast corner of our property. The nave and sanctuary will expand, providing 200 additional seats. The current building adequately seats 600 individuals, however the new structure allows us to grow up to 800 individuals at each Mass.
- **A Narthex**, connecting the church to the gym and parish hall. North and south entrances will welcome parishioners and visitors.
- **New Parking**, to replace spaces lost from new construction and increase lot capacity.



All together, this construction will provide St. Jude with 13,000 square feet of new worship space.

This project can be accomplished in phases to make sure we proceed responsibly once we have secured the resources necessary to break ground. We have prioritized the construction of the new church and demolition of the existing structure, followed by the narthex.

Our current estimates require St. Jude to raise \$2.25 million for construction of the church. By exceeding this goal, we can accelerate the narthex project as well.

You are built upon the foundations of the apostles and prophets, and Christ Jesus himself is the cornerstone. Every structure knit together in him grows into a holy temple in the Lord; and you too, in him, are being built up into a dwelling-place of God in the Spirit.

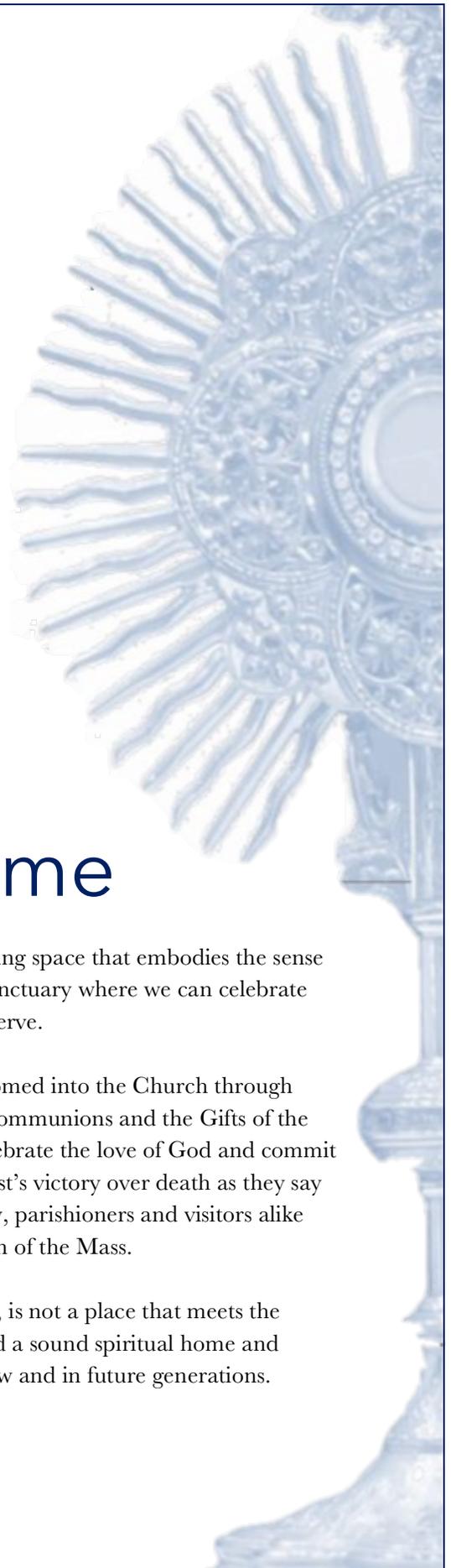
Ephesians 2:20-22

Our Spiritual Home

It is time for St. Jude's parish family to have a solid, welcoming space that embodies the sense of community we cherish so greatly. The church will be a sanctuary where we can celebrate the Sacraments with the reverence and dignity that they deserve.

In this new building, our youngest parishioners will be welcomed into the Church through Baptism; they will receive the Body of Christ at their First Communion and the Gifts of the Holy Spirit at their Confirmations. Devoted couples will celebrate the love of God and commit to each other through marriage. Families will proclaim Christ's victory over death as they say goodbye to loved ones who have passed away. And each day, parishioners and visitors alike will be welcomed into this house of prayer for the celebration of the Mass.

The current building, with its shortcomings and discomforts, is not a place that meets the needs of today's parishioners. We have an obligation to build a sound spiritual home and ensure that St. Jude is a welcoming place for prayer both now and in future generations.



Answering God's Call

To make our vision a reality, St. Jude has embarked on a capital campaign to raise funds for the new church building. We are all blessed with many treasures given to us by God. As stewards of these blessings, it is our responsibility to care for our spiritual community.

Achieving the goals presented here will require extraordinary generosity from our parishioners. Success will depend on the sacrifices of many, and St. Jude seeks the participation of each family of our parish.

Giving is deeply personal and reflects your dedication to the present and future wellbeing of our parish. We understand that everyone's financial situation is different and our ability to give can change from time to time. Though we may not all be able to offer equal gifts, we can offer the Lord and each other equal sacrifice. This campaign is an opportunity for each member of our community to become involved with a gift that is personally significant and appropriate.

We can all be more generous if we are provided the opportunity to give over time. To better ensure everyone has an opportunity to participate, our campaign seeks these commitments pledged over a five-year period. Many families find that by making smaller sacrifices over time, they can make an extraordinary commitment that would not have been possible through a one-time gift.

Our greatest strength here at St. Jude is the generous spirit of our community. We ask that you pray about what a sacrificial five-year pledge means to you and join us in this undertaking. Together, we will build a house of worship that will support our spirituality today and lay a foundation for future generations.



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